

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An epilator apparatus for the removal of hairs comprising:  
a tape ~~which~~ configured to adhere[[s]] ~~to the hairs and then is before being~~ fed to  
a plucking zone where the adhered hairs are plucked from the skin;  
a take-up reel configured to receive the tape downstream of the plucking zone;  
a drive motor configured to drive the take-up reel; and  
a switch in electrical communication with the drive motor and responsive to the  
application of the epilator apparatus against skin, such that application of the epilator apparatus  
against the skin activates the drive motor to drive the take-up reel.
2. (Currently Amended) The epilator apparatus according to claim 1, further  
comprising a pressure roller device for applying the tape against the skin.
3. (Currently Amended) The epilator apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the  
tape is oriented relative to the pressure roller device such that the adhesive side of the tape is  
applied against the skin.
4. (Currently Amended) The epilator apparatus according to claim 2, further  
comprising a deflector ~~device~~ positioned in the plucking zone such that the deflector ~~device~~  
guides the tape away from the skin.
5. (Currently Amended) The epilator apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the  
tape is fed from the pressure roller device to the deflector ~~device~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The epilator apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the deflector ~~device~~ includes two juxtaposed deflector elements arranged such that ~~and~~ the tape is passed between the two deflector elements.

7. (Previously Presented) The epilator apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the two deflector elements are urged against each other.

8. (Previously Presented) The epilator apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the two deflector elements are rotatably suspended.

9. (Currently Amended) The epilator apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a first supply reel from which ~~wherein~~ the tape is unwound upstream of the plucking zone ~~from a first supply reel.~~

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The epilator apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an additional tape that converges in the plucking zone with the tape configured to adhere to hairs ~~in the plucking zone.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The epilator apparatus according to claim 12, ~~further comprising wherein one or more~~ at least one of the tape configured to adhere to hairs and the additional tape is an adhesive tape.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The epilator apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a hair alignment device disposed in front of the tape, such that the hair alignment device aligns hairs in the direction of movement prior to contact with the tape configured to adhere to hairs ~~the hair alignment device precedes the tape.~~

16. (Currently Amended) A method of removing hair by means of an epilator apparatus, the method comprising:  
placing a tape in contact with ~~the~~ skin by application of the epilator apparatus to ~~the~~ skin;  
adhering ~~the~~ hairs to the placed tape;  
activating a drive motor, which drives a take-up reel, upon the application of the epilator apparatus to the skin;  
feeding the placed tape into a plucking zone of the epilator apparatus; ~~and~~  
plucking the adhered hairs from the skin in the plucking zone; ~~and~~  
receiving the tape and plucked hairs on the take-up reel downstream of the plucking zone.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, further comprising:  
guiding the tape away from the skin in the plucking zone; and lifting the hairs relative to the skin.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising:  
clamping the tape and the lifted hairs together between two deflector elements; and  
extracting the lifted hairs from the skin.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, further comprising:  
rotating the two deflector elements in opposite directions in response to the motion of the tape.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18, further comprising  
fixing the position of the surrounding skin by the deflector elements, while the hairs are plucked from the fixed skin in the plucking zone.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, further comprising  
feeding the tape in a manner that causes ~~such that~~ a forward movement of the epilator apparatus relative to the skin ~~is produced~~.

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23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16 further comprising driving the tape by manually advancing the epilator apparatus relative to the skin.